

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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P 210850Z FEB 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6606

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1544

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AO, UR, SF, WAS, CG

SUBJECT: HIGH GOZ OFFICIAL URGES WEST TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN  
NAMIBIA

1. SUMMARY IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S TOP ADVISOR, BISENGIMANA, QUESTIONED APPLICATION OF U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NOTING THAT ZAIRIAN AND AMERICAN INTERESTS COINCIDE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BISENGIMNA ASKED WHETHER US WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT CREATION OF A MODERATE AFRICAN BUFFER STATE IN NAMIBIA, THEREBY BLOCKING FURTHER SOVIET ADVANCES IN THE REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A LONG AND TROUBLED MONOLOGUE, BISENGIMANA, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, OUTLINED FOR THE CHARGE HIS THOUGHTS ON THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BISENGIMANA SAW REAL DANGER OF A SOVIET/CUBAN THRUST INTO NAMIBIA, FOLLOWING THE MPLA VICTORY IN ANGOLA. IF THIS TRANSPiRES, BISENGIMANA WARNED, EVEN MODERATE AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS ZAIRE WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROTEST A SOVIET MOVE TO LIBERATE NAMIBIA. ANY BLOCKING ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES OF A LIBERATION ARMY IN NAMIBIA WOULD ALIENATE MOST AFRICAN STATES AND WOULD PLACE AMERICA'S MODERATE FRIENDS IN AFRICA IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION. WHILE SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SUCCESSFULLY RESIST AN ARMED INVASION OF NAMIBIA IN THE SHORT TERM, IN THE LONG

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RUN POWER AND AFRICAN SYMPATHY WOULD BE WITH THE RUSSIANS.

2. HAVING DESCRIBED THIS UNACCEPTABLE CHAIN OF EVENTS,  
BISENGIMANA SUGGESTED THAT THE MODERATE AFRICAN STATES  
IN CONCERT WITH THE US TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH  
A BLACK AFRICAN "BUFFER STATE" IN NAMIBIA. THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES, HE ASSERTED, IS IN THE BEST  
POSITION TO URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO ACT IN ITS OWN INTEREST  
BY ESTABLISHING IMMEDIATELY AN INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE  
IN NAMIBIA, GOVERNED BY MODERATE FORCES. SUCH A STATE  
COULD CALL FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AND COULD BE LE-  
GITIMATELY DEFENDED FROM THE SOVIETS BY THE U.S. AND MODERATE  
AFRICAN STATES. WHILE THIS PLAN WOULD REQUIRE QUICK AND  
RESOLUTE ACTION, BISENGIMANA SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY  
THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD BY WHICH THE MODERATES COULD  
PREVENT THE SOVIETS FROM OUTFLANKING THEM IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA.

WALKER

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